A TRUE ACCOUNT Of the last Speeches, Confessions, AND EXECUTION OF

Christopher Knaos, *George Borrike*, and *John Sterne*, who were Tryed and found Guilty of the Barbarous Murther of *Thomas Thinn* Esq; on the 12 of *February* last, and Executed in the *Pallmall* near the place where they committed the Murther, on the 10th of this instant *March*. Together with the manner of their behaviours in *Newgate* after their Condemnations, and at the place of Execution, containing several very remarkable Passages that happened there.

IT has been observed in most Ages, that offended Heaven seldom suffers Murther to be long concealed, or the Murtherers to scape unpunished, for by one means or other they are still brought to light, and Justice most deservedly takes place, as in the fatal Catastrophy of these miserable Villains, we shall more amply demonstrate, viz. of *John Sterne*, *Christopher Knaos*, and *George Borrike*, Executed for the base and Villanous Murther of *Thomas Thinn* Esq; who on the 12th of *February* last was shot by *Borrike* with a Blunderbuss as he was Riding in his Coach, which was charged with four Bullets, and they being shot into his Body at four several places, he died of the wounds within Ten hours after, and although at that time the Murtherers by the switness of their Horses, made their escape, and got to their Lodgings, yet such was Heavens pleasure, that they should not escape unpunished, though not one of their faces were seen at the time the Murther was committed, so as to be known again, But Justice, as we most truely may affirm,

discovered them almost by Miracle; for not only a Pistol which one of them had with them, was found upon the place, but likewise a Chairman that having carried Captain *Urats* to the Bull-Inne in *Holborn* the Morning before the Murther was committed, going accidentally in to ask him whether he would discharge him, found him charging Pistols, and upon hearing of the Murther, directed such as sought for the Murtherers to that House, where after a short time they found *Amens Berge* the Captains man, who owned the Pistol so found to be his Masters, and also upon Examination discovered the place where he lay, who upon his being taken, discovered the rest; who all being apprehended, upon Examination confessed the Murther, for which being committed to *Newgate*, after 16 days continuance there, they were brought to their Tryals at the *Old-Baily*, (where a Jury of half *English* and half *Strangers* being Sworn) they Pleaded not Guilty, but the Evidence being Sworn against them, and their Examinations produced, they confessed the Murther, though in a different manner; *Urats* the Captain declared, *That he having heard that the Deceased had put some affronts upon* Count Coningsmark, *he (as having been a Servant to his Uncle and Father) thought himself bound in point of Honour to take the Quarrel upon himself, and that he only was Borsikie and Sterne in his seconds, he being minded to Challenge the Deceased.* Borsikie confessed, *That Captain* Urats *bid him fire into whatsoever Coach he should.* And as for Sterne, he confessed, *That he knew not the Design, but only went for Company.* Upon this they received sentence of Death, and were remanded to *Newgate*, there to continue till their Execution; since their Sentence they have been for the most part kept asunder, and several Persons of Quality have been to visit them, and by many Arguments perswaded them to confess the real Cause of the Murther, and what induced them to undertake so base and villanous an Enterprize, but especially the Captain stood obstinately (as it were) in vindicating what he had done, alledging, *That it was the Custome in their Country to Fight any one that refuses a Challenge.* And notwithstanding the earnest Exhortations of many Pious Divines, to prepare himself for another world, he seemed very careless of their Instructions, which some persons imputed to the hopes he conceived of obtaining his Majesties Pardon, but as for the other two, viz. *Borsikie* and *Sterne*, they seemed much more concerned, especially the latter, who often retired himself from the company that came to visit them, being often seen in private at his Devotion, and much bewailing himself for the Innocent Blood he had shed, wishing that he had not liv'd to have seen the day wherein the cause of his Death was effected, declaring, *that he had never any Malice against the Deceased, but that he was drawn into the wicked Enterprize through the perswasions of the Captain, with whom he had formerly acquaintance in the* French *Kings Service.* As for *Borsikie* that Bloody Assassinate

Assassinate who discharged the Peice, he had little convers with any person, by reason he was not so well versed in the *English* Tongue, so as to understand what was said unto him, but being asked whether he knew the *Blunderbus* to be charged, by reason that upon his Tryal he pleaded Ignorance, he replyed, *That notwithstanding what he had there said (when there was some hopes of saving his Life) he well knew it to be Charged with Powder and Bullet, but with how many Bullets he was not certain, and that the Captain delivered it to him under pretence to defend him against the Esquires Footmen, in case the Esquire should come out and strike as Words at first pretended he believed he would, but that afterwards he bid him (when he stopped the Coach) Fire into the same, as to that effect, whose unfortunate directions he followed to his own undoing;* And further, *that he came over in hopes of Preferment, but that now he was like to meet with such as would spoil his return.* He and the rest were very attentive at any time when Ministers came to pray with them; as past doubt not being insensible that they had but a small remainder of life left, and that it was high time to prepare themselves for another world. Dr. *Burnet* not only Preached to them on Sunday last, but likewise was with them six or seven times to exhort them to a free Confession, and to shew them how they stood (as it were) upon the brink of Eternity, just ready to be pushed off, their time being limited to a certain day, and that they could not reasonably hope or expect any prolongation of their time, who had bereaved a worthy Gentleman of his so suddainly, and so unexpected, one from whom some of them had confessed they never received any prejudice, nor had cause of conceiving any hatred, and to this effect were they daily exhorted by Pious men, who, notwithstanding their Villanous act, had a regard to their Souls. They likewise made great profession that they had been brought up in Protestant Countries, and that they had served against the Papists, but that was but a small excuse to mitigate the hainous Crime they were convicted of. The day appointed for their Execution, according to the Warrant directed to the Sheriffs, was to be on the 8th of this Instant, but at their humble request, for a longer time to prepare themselves for another world, they were reprieved till this day, when about Nine in the Morning the Sheriffs Officers came to demand them; after having had some conference with such as came to pay their last visits, were brought down by Captain *Richardsons* Servants, and delivered at the door of the Prison to the Sheriffs Officers, as is usual in such Cases. The Captain at his first coming down look'd very brisk, but he perceiving there was no way but that he must go to his long

home, his countenance greatly alter'd, and he many times in the way to the place of Execution, hung down his head; the other two look'd like Men whom the fear of Death had altogether ſtupified, ſo that we may perceive that ſuch as are bold and daring to commit Murthers and bereave others of their Lives are moſt timerous when Death begins to ſtare them in the face, all along as they paſſed there were Crouds of People, not only in the Street, but in the Windows and Balconeys, that the like has not been ſeen ſince the Execution of their fellow Murtherers, thoſe deteſted Wretches that as Inhumanly and baſely Murthered that Worthy Knight Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*. They being come to the place of Execution, where the Gibbets were placed as near as could be gueſſed on the ſpot where the Coach ſtood, when the Deceaſed was ſhot, the Carts drawing under them, ſtood ſtill, and being incloſed round with the Guards that went to ſee Execution done, the Murtherers being unbound, ſtood up with dejected looks, ſeveral Miniſters being with them, the Captain often looking wiſhfully about him, (as ſome thought) in hopes of a Reprieve, when after an hours ſpace, having received ſeveral Exhortations, and ſaid ſome Prayers in their own Language, *Hans*, being a *German*, *Berwick* a *Polander* and *Stern* a *Swede*, the two laſt often lifted up their Hands, and bewailed their unhappy ends, but in the laſt denying the Murther, but that they deſerved to dye for the ſame: the Captain likewiſe ſpoke ſeveral words in *French*, and after they had thus done, the Executioner did his Office, where after they had Hang'd about three Quarters of an hour, they were taken down and conveyed thence.

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